

**LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
September 9, 2005
10:00 a.m.**

Call to Order

The meeting of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, September 9, 2005, at the Library of Michigan, by Cliff Haka, Chair.

Attendance

Members Present: B. Denise Bartlett (by speaker phone), Barbara Bonge (alternate for Chief Justice Clifford Taylor), Linda Farynk, Elaine Logan, Fran Pletz, Nancy Robertson, Nancy Skowronski, Francis "Bus" Spaniola, Representative Aldo Vagnozzi

Members Absent: Representative Fran Amos, William Anderson, Senator Irma Clark-Coleman, Senator Tom George

Staff Present: Elaine Harrison, Sheryl Mase, Judith Moore, Jennifer Sipe (recording secretary)

Visitors: Jill Costello (representing Senator Tom George), Gretchen Couraud, Ruth Dukelow, Roger Ashley, Roger Mendel

Agenda

NANCY SKOWRONSKI MOVED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA. ELAINE LOGAN SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Minutes of
May 13, 2005
Meeting**

FRAN PLETZ MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MAY 13, 2005, BOARD MINUTES. BUS SPANIOLA SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Board Reports
Board Chair's
Reports**

Cliff Haka raised the issue of the structure and purpose of the Executive and Finance committees of the Board of Trustees. The committees are mandated in the Board By-Laws; however, they have been inactive since the changeover of the Library of Michigan from the Legislative to the Executive Branch of state government. Action was tabled until a new State Librarian is appointed. Representative Vagnozzi stressed the importance of the Board of Trustees being visible to the legislature during the budget process. Nancy Skowronski asked for clarification of what the Board can and cannot do. Nancy Robertson will obtain clarification from Bill Anderson for discussion at the next Board meeting.

Cliff noted that the two finalists for the State Librarian position will be interviewed on September 22nd. It is expected that a new State Librarian will be appointed in the very near future.

**Board Members’
Reports**

Fran Pletz was pleased to see a letter included in the Board packet from the author Anne-Marie Oomen; she shared it with the Charlevoix Friends Group. Ms. Oomen is from the Charlevoix area.

**Legislator
Reports**

Jill Costello, representing Senator Tom George, spoke of the digitization money that was taken from state aid and added to the budget. The Senator’s office heard from numerous libraries/librarians, resulting in \$300,000 being moved back into state aid. It is hoped that final budget figures will be known in the next few weeks. Jill added that Senator George appreciates the Board’s activities; the Board returned the compliment.

Representative Vagnozzi spoke about the budget process being a difficult task. He hopes to see the money restored for the Detroit Public Library. In addition, a bill has been introduced making it difficult to form a district library. District libraries serve a purpose and cut costs, so he is hopeful this bill does not pass. Representative Vagnozzi further mentioned the 140th anniversary of the Detroit Public Library; he attended the festivities and added that many legislators do not realize what DPL does. He urged getting more information out on DPL.

**State Librarian’s
Report**

The new Library of Michigan newsletter, LM4X, will be out by the end of this month. This reformatted newsletter will be available in pdf format, with more images and regular features. LM4X will be more like the Library’s old newsletter; however, it will still be available in electronic format only. It will be published in September, December, March and June.

A QSAC fact sheet from Martha McKee was distributed to the Board. 57 libraries have now been certified Essential; 6 Enhanced; and 2 Excellent.

29 applications were received for the digitization grants; 10 were awarded. Contracts have now been mailed to the recipients; once signatures are obtained, funds will be distributed. The projects are very diverse and will become accessible digitally on MeL. The next meeting of the Digitization Task Force is scheduled for October; guidelines and expectations of what should be on MeL will be established at that meeting.

Over \$15,000 was raised from “Ernie and Tram Go to Bat for Michigan Public Libraries,” the Tigers baseball event held last May at Comerica Park. This money will be granted to Michigan libraries. Training on how to start an endowment fund in a community foundation was held on September 7th, at LM, with a presenter from the Council of Michigan Foundations. Grant applications and guidelines are available on the Web

site, with the timeline of September 1st to December 1st. Matching funding is a requirement.

No LSTA subgrant program was offered for 2005, and this decision has now been expanded to include 2006.

An RFP to establish MeL databases was due out this summer; however, with no State Librarian in place, as well as no MeL Coordinator, the decision was made to issue an RFP next summer. Currently, Nancy is working with four major vendors on agreements to extend current year databases, at the same price, for an additional year.

The MeL media launch is scheduled for September 21st, at 10am, in the Atrium of the Michigan Library and Historical Center (MLHC). It is hoped attendees will include someone from the Governor's office; legislators; and major vendors such as Proquest, OCLC, Thomson Gale and III. A demonstration of the various components of MeL will be presented; this is a vast improvement over the old version. LM staff will be available to help anyone wanting to search the new MeL.

Work continues on the move of the Law Library into MLHC. Nancy noted that both Bill Anderson and Mark Hoffman are supportive of this move, and hopefully it can be accomplished during 2006. Plans have been drawn up; however, funding must now be worked out. This change will be advantageous to Law patrons, as open hours would include week-ends.

Nancy talked briefly about the staff of the Library of Michigan. Karren Reish, a reference librarian and coordinator for the Michigan Center for the Book is now also serving as the Library's LSTA coordinator. The MeL Coordinator position has been posted; this is a very important position at the Library of Michigan. Bernard Davis, a reference librarian, will leave for military training on Sunday, September 11th, and will then be deployed to Iraq for 18 months. He will be sorely missed; his position will be held until he returns. Finally, Nancy mentioned that as of October 1st, the MeL selectors, with the exception of two, will be let go. LM staff will be working to keep selection efforts going. The money saved will be utilized to fund the MeL Coordinator position.

LM Foundation Report

Judith Moore provided an overview of what the LM Foundation has been working on. The Board of Directors has been developing a plan to build their fund raising capacity. A draft plan was presented at the August meeting, and a worthwhile discussion followed; work continues on this plan. The Foundation will be building a stronger case for support, qualifying and quantifying various programs, i.e., who is being served;

what the impact will be; and how donors can make a difference. Currently supported Foundation programs will be narrowed slightly; SBPH, genealogy, rare books, MeL and promoting literacy will remain the Board's focus. Continuing education for rural libraries will continue; however, this will no longer be a main focus. The Board is looking at working in "clusters" in Michigan, rather than covering the entire state. Past donors are being contacted for renewed support. Financial expectations of the Board are being reviewed, i.e., how much money needs to be raised in unrestricted dollars to continue working independently. The percentage of administrative costs is also being reviewed. In addition, the LM Foundation may possibly allocate 5% to the Library of Michigan yearly. Hopefully, the Foundation's new plan will be adopted by the next LM Board of Trustees meeting.

Judith provided some figures for Board members: This year \$48,000 in unrestricted support was received. Last year this figure was \$40,000; and the year before it was \$12,000. \$212,000 in restricted support was received this year. Last year this figure was \$180,000; and the year before it was slightly less. The Foundation is slowly increasing their fund raising; however, work continues on being even more successful in the future.

On Sunday, September 11th, an event sponsored by the LM Foundation, Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Lyons Club will be held; it is hoped this will become an annual event. "Vision Disability Awareness Day," will be for the purpose of increasing awareness of this disability. Activities will include presentations and games. In addition, working dogs will be present. In addition, Scouts will attend and will be working toward their disability badges.

The LM Foundation is currently looking for corporate sponsor partnerships. Proquest has agreed to be a sponsor for this year's Notable Books program. The LM Foundation has applied for a Humanities Council "We the People" grant in the amount of \$20,000. Grant dollars will also go toward supporting the Notable Books program. Sponsorships are also being sought for this year's Michigan Reads! program.

The winner of this year's State Librarian's Excellence Award will be announced during the Michigan Library Association (MLA) Annual Conference in Grand Rapids; today is the deadline for nominations.

Carole Callard's retirement from the Library of Michigan was celebrated on September 8th. Regrettably, Carole has been ill lately; however, she was present and most pleased with the event. 170 people attended from

all over the state.

**Partnership
Reports
Cooperatives**

Roger Mendel's report was included in the Board packet. He again expressed concern on behalf of the cooperatives about the Senate proposed cut in state aid. Cuts will affect public libraries; however, the cooperatives will take the greatest hit, resulting in cuts in service to their member libraries. The Cooperative Directors Association continues to work with MLA, PLFIG and others to improve funding for libraries and the cooperatives. Roger again mentioned plans to distribute the funds raised at last May's Library Day at Comerica Park. The cooperatives are working on identifying libraries that have not yet had a Michigan author visit in connection with Notable Books. They look forward to working on this program again this year. A 13th cooperative has been formed - Detroit Library Cooperative. A plan of service has been submitted to the Library of Michigan. A new homepage for the cooperatives is currently being created. This homepage will contain new information on cooperative services and activities. The address will be shared as soon as it becomes available. Finally, the cooperatives have been working with the Centers for Medicare Services and will be sharing information with their members on new prescription drug cards as well as other new services. This is a national initiative coordinated by ALA.

MLA

The MLA report was included with the Board packet. Linda Farynk was pleased to introduce the new executive director of Michigan Library Association, Gretchen Couraud. Gretchen indicated she looks forward to working with the LM Board of Trustees. Linda further reported that MLA would be taking a new shape in the next six months. In addition, MLA has completed the year with revenue over expenditures of approximately \$90,000, enabling the pay off of the previous general fund deficit and providing a significant start in rebuilding the operating reserve. Cliff Haka congratulated those that worked hard to pull MLA back to its present state.

MLC

The MLC report was included with the Board packet. Ruth Dukelow reported on the return of Randy Dykhuis as of September 19th; Randy has been on sabbatical. MLC is very pleased to have permanent leadership for MLA. Ruth announced some MLC programs being planned for 2006. She expressed MLC's thanks to Roger Ashley and MAME for their assistance in working with the Department of Education concerning granting teachers SB-CEU's for MLC programs. A course has been launched for teachers who wish to learn how to use MeL databases in their curriculum plans.

MAME

The MAME report was distributed at the meeting. Roger Ashley noted that preparations are being worked out for the MAME state conference entitled "Roots and Wings," to be held November 9-12, 2005, in Detroit. Roger added that a number of school districts have passed millages and will now be able to construct new buildings. Roger thanked Nancy Robertson for calling together school media groups for a meeting to discuss ways the Library of Michigan might help to improve school media centers across the state. Many positives and negatives were discussed, and the group will now develop strategies to enhance the perceptions of school leaders and community members.

Board Action

The Board discussed appointing a representative to the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Council. LSTA are federal dollars that are applied for and distributed through LM, and the LM Board of Trustees has representation on this Council.

CLIFF HAKA MOVED THE APPOINTMENT OF NANCY SKOWRONSKI AS THE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LSTA ADVISORY COUNCIL. ALDO VAGNOZZI SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED, WITH ONE ABSTENTION BY NANCY SKOWRONSKI.

**Board Discussion
Items**

The Board discussed how the state library could have a positive impact on school libraries and media centers. The LM/school media group will meet again to discuss what a school media center in the 21st century should look like and how to set benchmarks for achievement. The Board also discussed scenarios such as if there were no school media centers and how this would place a burden on public libraries statewide. Board members stressed the importance of having a good vision of the future, as we will all be different bodies by 2025 living in a vastly different world. Denise Bartlett mentioned the common practice of placing non-qualified people in media centers. There exists a serious problem with public relations and image in terms of the necessity of media centers. Denise recommended the involvement of REMC's in the upcoming meeting, adding that cooperation, brainstorming and training are needed.

Sheryl Mase noted how budgetary issues are affecting school libraries and stressed the importance of benchmarks. Sheryl is involved in a Michigan educational technology group that is discussing information literacy; how to approach this issue; and the importance of getting positions established in the schools. Curriculum-based training is being pursued through MeL in order to connect resources to what is happening in the schools.

Cliff indicated this issue will be revisited by the Board.

Old Business

Aldo Vagnozzi expressed his continued concern over the renewed Patriot Act.

New Business

No new business was presented to the Board.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is Friday, November 18, 2005, at 10am.

Adjournment

BARB BONGE MOVED ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING. BUS SPANIOLA SECONDED.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Cliff Haka, Chair

Nancy R. Robertson, Acting State Librarian